

They want to earn a decent wage and be able to save a little money at the end of each month. All of these things, Mr. Speaker, all of these are what the American people want. The Republican Contract With America does none of them.

The American people deserve better than this extreme Contract With America. And the time has come that we not just pray and we not just speak. The time has come for action. I did not sign this contract. The American people did not sign this contract. The time for action is now.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA NOT FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, if the Contract With America was a song, it would be "50 Ways to Leave the Middle Class." How is it possible that we have been in session 50 days, we have cast 150 votes, yet we have not passed one single amendment, not one, that addresses jobs, incomes, health, education, job training? You cannot send your kid to school on an unfunded mandate, Mr. Speaker.

On the issues more important to working middle class families, this contract has been silent for 50 days. And you know what, it is going to be silent for the next 50 days as well.

Instead, Republicans have voted to pull 100,000 police officers off the beat. They have said no to protecting Social Security, and they have said yes to Star Wars, a \$50 billion project, and on top of that, they want to balance the budget. But yet, what do they do? They go and vote for renewing Star Wars at a \$50 billion price tag. And, of course, today we saw in the supplemental, they busted the budget by voting for that. They said no to many things that are necessary for middle income people.

Now we read that in the next 50 days, they intend to cut the student lunch program.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot renew American civilization by making kids in America go hungry. Republicans may be in a rush to ditto every single bill, but in this rush to extremism, the Gingrich revolution is leaving the values of working families behind in this country.

We will meet them, as we discuss these issues that are important to working families over the next 50 days, and they will know and the American people will know that when it comes to

ma [Mr. KLINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KLINK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. HILLEARY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HILLEARY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. BECERRA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BECERRA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE 104TH CONGRESS DELIVERS THE LEGISLATION AMERICA HAS WANTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I do agree with the previous speakers that now is the time for action, and that is exactly what we have been doing. I heard a previous speaker tell us that this Contract With America was a rush to extremism, I don't understand that, and a rush away from the middle class. I don't understand that.

When we look at poll after poll, survey after survey, everybody out there is agreeing on the very concepts that we are bringing to the floor these first 50 days.

We have pushed through a balanced budget amendment that the middle class wanted. We have pushed through a line-item veto. We have pushed

coast the type of legislation that they have been wanting. We have been delivering it for the first 50 days, and for anybody to stand up here and say that it is a rush to extremism ignores political reality in this country.

It has been a rush to the middle class, a rush back to the values that Americans have been begging for in their leadership, a rush back to the type of principles that Americans have been begging for.

Just imagine it, in 50 days we now have a Congress that has to abide by the same laws that they make all of American abide by. Just imagine, in the first 50 days, we now have a balanced budget amendment that has been passed from this House that requires the Federal Government to abide by the same laws that Americans have to abide by in writing their checks.

We cannot spend more money than we take in, according to our balanced budget amendment. What is so extreme about that? What is so extreme about cutting committee staff by one-third? What is so extreme about cutting congressional staff from 21 down to 16? There is nothing extreme about it.

This is what America has demanded. This is what America has asked for. This is what liberals have denied America from so long, and this is what we are delivering on. There is nothing extreme about the Contract With America, or this legislation that has been passed.

For all those pollsters and pundits and political experts out there that are trying to figure out why there was a conservative landslide on November 8, all you have to do is look at the leadership on the other side of the aisle and listen to what they have been talking about, saying that these measures are extremism. Come on, who are they fooling?

They are saying that they have nothing to do with jobs or income or health. Who do they think they are fooling? Anybody knows that when you cut regulations, when you put the type of regulatory reform on the table that we have put on the table, you are going to save jobs. You are going to create jobs. You are going to take the handcuffs off of small business men and women across this country, and allow them to create jobs.

When you pass a taxpayer protection plan that we passed the first day of Congress, that requires this body to pass new tax increases by a three-fifths vote in the 104th Congress, you are saving jobs and you are saving income from a middle class and a lower class

the table, back to Congress, that actually make a difference.

To say that this is a rush to extremism, or to say that this is NEWT GINGRICH's radical Contract With America, simply is not true, and denies reality in this country. This is not a rush to extremism, this is a recognition of what America has so sorely needed for 40 years. We have had real leadership, we have had real change, and we have a real reason to tell America that Congress again works.

If we were so off the beaten path, if we were being so radical, then why would the country's approval rating of Congress storm up from 18 percent to almost 50 percent today, on the 50th day? The reason why is obvious, because we are doing what Americans have elected us to do. We are making a difference.

This is not about ideology, it is about what works, and just wait for the second 50 days. You ain't seen nothing yet.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER FROM H.R. 867

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 867.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York.

There was no objection.

220 MEMBERS OF THE MAJORITY PARTY VOTED TO DENY AMERICANS CONTINUATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I happened to hear the comments of the gentleman before me, about all the things that the new Republican majority has done for the people of America. Last night they had an opportunity to do one of the greatest things they could have done for the people of America, and they did not.

They did not give the people of America the same protection that every Member of Congress has, should we decide to leave Congress, or should the voters decide for us that we should leave.

Mr. Speaker, if a Member of Congress wishes to leave or gets fired by the American people, he can buy back into the House insurance by paying the full cost of the premium. Unfortunately for most Americans, if they lose their job,

member should develop cancer, leukemia, or any other horrible disease, they are then locked to their job for life, because when they go to apply to a new employer for a better job, that employer is going to find out that they have cancer, they have leukemia, or a family member has it, and they will either be told they cannot take the job, or they cannot get insurance at any price.

Mr. Speaker, last night this body, this Contract With America, had the opportunity to change that for 4 million American people; nothing special, just give them the same breaks that you and I have, Mr. Speaker, you and I who have families, you and I who have kids that can get sick.

The same good deal for a Congressman ought to be a good deal for the rest of the people of America, but it was not included in the Contract With America. We did not even give 4 million people the opportunity to just buy their own insurance policy through their former employer. That is wrong.

So for all the talk of accountability, for all the talk of putting people first, the bottom line is that only 4 Members of the majority party voted for the motion to recommit, but 222 of the majority party thumbed their noses at the people of America.

I would really like to hear of any Member of this body on either side of the aisle explain why it is OK for them to have permanent coverage under health insurance, to be able to buy into this policy, pay 100 percent of the cost when you leave, but it is not OK for the people we represent to have that same privilege.

Last night, 220 Members of the majority party, almost all of them, said that is not right, they would not do it. That is not fair, that is not accountable, and that is not putting Congress under the same laws as the American people.

This is going to be a long session. We should be here at least until Thanksgiving. I want to encourage especially the newer Members of the majority party, who are most likely to want to change things, to take a second look at this. Let us try to be as fair to the American people as Congress is to itself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONGRESS, 50 DAYS INTO THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, what a day it was today. Fifty days into the session, and we have had much to rejoice about and celebrate about. Today we had a news conference and talked about some of the things we have accomplished. Today America faces a brighter future because of what we have done in the first 50 days.

We have passed the balanced budget amendment, and not only does that make sense for us as we live our lives out today, but it also makes sense for my children and my grandchildren, who I do not even know yet, because they have not been born, but I know that we are not going to pass on a debt to them.

We are going to keep our spending in line. We are on a plan to balance the budget by the year 2002.

□ 1900

It is a good plan, we are holding to it, and we are doing it because it is important to the people of America. That is why we face a brighter future.

We are also regaining trust in America, because we have changed Congress. We have changed the way we are doing business here in Washington.

On opening day, we required Congress to live under the same laws as the rest of America does. We limited committee chairmanships, we eliminated proxy voting, we in fact changed the way business is done. It is something that has been called for for a long time. And we finally accomplished that in the first 50 days.

We are also now more accountable as a Federal Government than we were 50 days ago. We passed unfunded mandate reform that makes Congress accountable for the actions. When we impose unfunded mandates, we are going to try and eliminate that because we know what they will cost now and we will understand what we are passing on to local governments.

I think it is very evident that Congress is listening more now than it did 50 days ago. We have a crime package that addresses the real true problem. We are not doing midnight basketball, we are not having dance lessons for Federal inmates. What we are doing is block grants to local communities, because they are the ones that can determine best how to spend their money. Do they need new computer systems? Do they need new troopers, new cars